

THE NEW US 31

HAMILTON COUNTY

DATE/TIME: February 25, 2014 9:00 a.m. (EDT)

FILE CODE: 20074350

LOCATION: Clay Township Hall, 10701 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46280

SUBJECT: US 31 project and construction updates

CAC ATTENDEES: Mike Dearing (IMPO), Hank Arszman (Washington Township Parks), Bob Robey (Westfield Chamber of Commerce), Jim Neal (Hamilton County), Jennifer Miller (City of Westfield), Nick Verhoff (Westfield Washington Schools), Jeremy Kashman (City of Carmel), Mike Hollibaugh (City of Carmel), Christine Altman (Hamilton County), Dan LaReau (St. Vincent Carmel), Brad Davis (Hamilton County), Dave Haboush (Carmel Fire Dept.), Ron Farrand (Carmel Clay Schools), Melody Jones (City of Westfield), Sue Finkham (City of Carmel), Monica Faurote (Village Farms HOA), Garry Harling (Westfield Fire Dept.), Mike McBride (City of Carmel), Neil VanTrees (City of Westfield)

US 31 TEAM MEMBERS: Steve Fleming (CHA Companies), Austin Hastings (Parsons Brinckerhoff), Duane McKinney (Parsons Brinckerhoff), Kim Mills (Parsons Brinckerhoff), Chad Nierman (INDOT), Jason Rowley (CHA Companies), Gary Pence (INDOT), Michelle Kearns (Empower Results), Andrea Farmer (Borshoff), Whitney Pflanzner (Borshoff), Brandye Hendrickson (INDOT), Eryn Fletcher (FHWA), Nathan Riggs (INDOT), Will Wingfield (INDOT)

Notes by: Michelle Kearns

PURPOSE: To provide project overview information regarding the updated plan to close US 31 between Old Meridian and 136th streets in 2014 and information concerning ongoing construction activities.

PRESENTATION: Several members of the US31 team provided a PowerPoint presentation to the above Community Advisory Committee members and then responded to a question and answer session. An overview of the presentation is outlined below:

Progress and updates on ongoing construction – Presented by Gary Pence (INDOT)

- Roundabout at 136th Street/Rohrer Road/Eglin Drive was completed this year
 - Re-striping in this area will occur when weather and temperatures allow
- US 31/Keystone Parkway/146th Street interchange is complete
- 146th Street bridge is complete, though crews continue work on the pedestrian bridge on the north side of the 146th Street bridge
- Ramps connecting US 31 to 146th Street, Greyhound Pass and 151st Street are near completion
 - Construction will continue in this area through June 2014
- US 31/161st Street interchange is complete
- US 31/SR 38 interchange is complete
- Demolition, utility and clearing work is ongoing
- Contracts let in 2013 include:
 - Demolition and clearing in Westfield – Rieth-Riley

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- US 31 from 96th Street to Range Line Road – E&B Paving/Gradex
- US 31 from 169th Street to 203rd Street – Rieth-Riley

US 31 closure information – Presented by Steve Fleming (CHA Companies)

- Crews expect to continue work on mainline US 31 this year between I-465 and 116th Street and will construct the outside lanes of US 31 first
- The closure of US 31 between Old Meridian and 136th streets will be moved to 2014 with a start date on or after April 4, reopening before Thanksgiving 2014
- A temporary median opening will be available at Old Meridian Street to allow southbound motorists access from Old Meridian Street to US 31 southbound during the closure
- Either 126th Street/Carmel Drive or 131st Street/Main Street will be open for cross traffic at all times (except for the weekend of the closure start while crews add a pipe near 126th Street)
 - 131st Street/Main Street access to/from US 31 is expected to close first (around March 10)
 - In the fall, 131st Street/Main Street will reopen to cross traffic across US 31 and 126th Street/Carmel Drive access to/from US 31 will close
 - 126th Street/Carmel Drive access to/from US 31 may not reopen until spring 2015, but the full closure of US 31 is expected to end before Thanksgiving 2014
- Cross traffic and access to/from 136th Street will be maintained throughout the duration of the closure of US 31
- Official detour is Keystone Parkway
- Alternate routes for local access include Pennsylvania and Illinois streets
- A detailed signage plan will be implemented to guide motorists to local hospitals

Benefits of 2014 US31 Closure

- Shortens closure duration to about eight months, compared to about 10 months
- Allows INDOT to fulfill the commitment to open US 31 to freeway standards from I-465 to SR 38 by the end of 2015
- Completes the 136th Street area one year earlier
- Five fewer traffic signals on US 31 by the end of 2014 Business access will remain open and INDOT encourages the public to patronize local businesses affected by the closure

US 31 Closure Outreach

- News releases – Feb. 25 and ongoing
- Meeting with emergency responders – Feb. 25
- Meeting with businesses – Feb. 27
- HOA outreach – Feb. 25 and ongoing
- Road closure postcard sent to 63,000 addresses – arrives March 7
- Open houses – March 18 (Carmel High School) and 19 (Westfield Middle School)
- Advertising – radio and print (2 weeks prior to closure)
- Launch of shortened URL - US31closure.com and social media hashtag ‘#US31Closure’
- Text messaging/enewsletters will be sent to alert the public of the closure timing, duration and details

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At least 7 signals will be removed by the end of 2014:

- SR 38, 161st Street, 151st Street, Greyhound Pass, 136th Street, Range Line Road, 126th Street/Carmel

Carmel construction in 2014 and 2015 – Presented by Duane McKinney (Parsons Brinckerhoff)

Expected closures in Carmel in 2014 include the following:

- Northbound US 31 to westbound I-465 - Approx. 30 days (access to ramp will be rerouted, so no detour route is necessary)
- 111th Street/US 31 - Approx. 180 days
- 126th Street/US 31 - After Main Street opens
- US 31 access to 131st Street/Main Street – Approx. 240 days
- 131st Street/Pennsylvania Street - Approx. 60 days
- 131st Street/US 31 - Approx. 240 days
- Smokey Row Road/US 31 – Approx. 60 days

Anticipated City of Carmel closures include:

- 106th Street/Illinois Street (timing TBD)
- Spring Mill Road/Illinois Street (timing TBD)
- 111th Street/Pennsylvania Street (timing TBD)

Expected closures in Carmel during 2015 include the following:

- Various ramp closures at 106th and 116th streets – One to two weeks in duration
- 116th Street/Pennsylvania Street – 60 days

Westfield construction in 2014 and 2015

Closures expected to begin in spring 2014:

- 203rd Street/US 31 (Permanent)
- Poplar Street
- Approx. 60 days

Closures expected to begin in summer 2014:

- 191st Street/East Street
- Approx. 45 days
- Tomlinson Road/Blackburn Road
- Approx. 45 days
- Blackburn Road/US 31 (Permanent)
- Shamrock Boulevard
- Approx. 60 days
- Westfield Park Drive/Westfield Park Road
- Approx. 45 days

City of Westfield Construction in 2014:

- Grand Park Sports Campus

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- 186th Street - Kinsey to Grand Park Boulevard
- 191st Street & Tomlinson Road roundabout
- Wheeler Road - SR 32 to 181st Street
- 161st Street & Oak Ridge Road roundabout
- 161st Street & Carey Road roundabout
- Monon Trail - 161st Street to Oak Ridge Road
- Monon Trail - SR 32 to 191st Street
- Monon Trail Anna Kendall bridge
- North Union Street Extension - North Union to East Street

Expected closures in Westfield in 2015 include the following::

- 169th Street access at US 31 – Approx. 14 days
- 181st Street access at US 31 – Approx. 14 days
- Union Street access at US 31 – Permanent
- 191st Street access at US 31 – Approx. 120 days
- 196th Street access at US 31 – Permanent

Stay updated on construction – Presented by Whitney Pflanze

- Visit US31Closure.com for updates
- Subscribe to project newsletter via the website
- Subscribe to text messaging program by texting ROADS to 411247 (standard texting rates apply)
- Schedule a group presentation by contacting the public outreach team at us31hamiltoncounty@borshoff.biz
- Real-time construction information posted on website
- See INDOT East Central on Facebook and @INDOT_ECentral on Twitter

Upcoming Meetings to notify stakeholders and the public of the closure of US 31 in 2014:

- Feb. 25 – Emergency responders, hospitals, Carmel Schools
 - 1 p.m. at Carmel Fire Station
- Feb. 27 – Business representatives
 - 9:30 a.m., 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. at Carmel Clay Public Library
- March 18 – Public open house in Carmel
 - 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Carmel High School
- March 19 – Public open house in Westfield
 - 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Westfield Middle School

Q&A session

Q: Because 126th Street/Carmel Drive may not be complete until spring 2015, will US 31 also remain closed until 126th Street is completed?

A: No, US 31 between Old Meridian Street and 136th Street is expected to reopen by Thanksgiving of this year.

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Q: When will the 136th Street/Smokey Row area close?

A: We expect that traffic will be maintained on Old Meridian Street throughout the closure. However, in order to construct a new roundabout at Old Meridian Street/Smokey Row Road, the contractor must close the leg of Smokey Row Road for approximately 60 days this summer.

Q: Is it possible to request that the Shamrock Road closure doesn't happen before July 4? This weekend is Westfield's Rock the 4th which will be very busy for traffic.

A: Shamrock Road will close once Poplar Street is completed. This has been discussed with Rieth-Riley, the contractor, and they don't see a problem with completing the south side of the roundabout and then postponing the northern half until after the July 4.

Q: Is it possible to adjust the timing on the signal at 96th Street so that area doesn't become a parking lot during the rush hour.

A: INDOT and the City of Carmel will work together to adjust signal timings as necessary.

Q: Will there be any advertising to encourage people use Allisonville Road during the full closure and not Keystone Parkway?

A: The official detour is Keystone Parkway, which is the route the team is recommending motorists to use. However, motorists may be inclined to use alternate options, such as I-465/Allisonville Road.

Q: Is a graphic available for the sequencing of the closure of Smokey Row Road/ 136th Street.

A: We don't have a specific graphic for this area, but there won't be a full closure of the interchange because each half of the roundabout will be built while the other half is still open. However, a graphic may be developed at a later date.

Q: Would it be possible to use electronic signage along US 31 to let people know how to get to various events and parking near Grand Park throughout the year for out of town guests.

A: Signage will be very important and INDOT would be happy to work with Westfield regarding the timing of closures to help keep the out of town guests informed. The website is also a good source of information for the most up-to-date construction sequencing.